



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Update on Snake River Boating Accident

Grand Teton National Park officials have confirmed the names of the three float trip passengers who drowned Friday, June 2, on the Snake River: John and Elizabeth Rizas, ages 63 and 58 respectively, from Beaufort, South Carolina, and Linda Clark, age 69, from Shreveport, Louisiana. The Rizas and Clark were floating the river as part of a Grand Teton Lodge Company scenic float trip when the raft overturned, spilling the raft's passengers into the cold, swift-running river. Rescue personnel were able to extricate the other ten passengers from the water. All of the boaters were wearing class five personal flotation devices, which are designed specifically for recreational activities involving water.

The boaters were floating on a ten-mile stretch of the Snake River when the accident occurred, approximately one-half mile south of the historic Bar BC Dude Ranch, at about 11:00 a.m. on Friday. Grand Teton National Park rangers, Jackson Hole Fire and EMS personnel, and Teton County Search and Rescue volunteers executed a large-scale search and rescue operation. Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott expressed appreciation to everyone involved in the rescue for their tremendous efforts.

On average, approximately 63,000 people float the Snake River with commercially guided trips in Grand Teton National Park each summer. Guided float trips account for about two-thirds of the total number of people who float the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park every year.

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